



Community College Initiative (CCI) Program

Scholarship awards for the 2013-2014 Community College Initiative (CCI) Program are contingent on the appropriation of Federal funding by the United States Congress.

CCI Program Overview

The Community College Initiative Program provides participants from selected countries with opportunities to study at community colleges in the United States to build mutual understanding through a non-degree program of academic, vocational, and cultural studies. The CCI Program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State.

The 2013-2014 program provides academic instruction at community colleges throughout the U.S. in the fields of agriculture, applied engineering, business management and administration, early childhood education, information technology, media, and tourism and hospitality management.

Participants spend one academic year in the United States. Participants may earn an academic certificate in their field of study and gain first-hand practical experience through internships in their field of study. In addition to professional training, participants develop leadership skills, build English language proficiency, and learn principles of U.S. society and culture, including community service and social responsibility. After completing the program, participants return home with enhanced mutual understanding as well as new skills and expertise to help them contribute to the economic growth and development of their countries.

Since the program's inception in 2007, nearly 2,000 students from 15 countries have received scholarships for study at community colleges throughout the United States.

The Community College Initiative Program demonstrates U.S. commitment to increasing access to higher education for underserved international students in key regions and utilizes the unique resource represented by U.S. community colleges. The program reinforces U.S. community colleges' efforts to deepen international education partnerships and programming.

CCI Eligibility Requirements

Candidates will be considered without respect to race, color, religion, national origin, or gender. Persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply. Competition for the Community College Initiative Program is merit-based and open to anyone who:

- Is a citizen, national or permanent resident qualified to hold a valid passport issued by a country participating in the CCI Program.
- Is currently residing in the eligible country.
- Is 18 years or older by the program start date.
- Has successfully earned a secondary school diploma.
- Has *not* earned a bachelor's degree or higher in the field of study the applicant is nominated to pursue.
- Has some academic or work experience or demonstrated rationale for selecting a particular field of study. The program aims to identify participants with proven skills or interest in the fields of study offered.
- Has basic working knowledge of English language as demonstrated by a minimum TOEFL score of 400. (Note: To pursue credit-bearing courses in an academic field of study, the applicant must meet the minimum language requirements of the host college—usually 500 on the TOEFL test. English language training will be necessary and is available for those who do not demonstrate this level of proficiency.)
- Has limited or no overseas study experience.
- Meets any customized requirements of the home country Embassy/Consulate or Commission.
- Submits a complete original application.
- Is able to receive and maintain a U.S. J-1 visa.
- Is physically able to complete the program in its entirety.
- Is committed to returning to their home country after completion of the program.
- Is able to begin the academic exchange program in the U.S. in the late summer/early fall of 2013.

Individuals in the following circumstances are NOT eligible for the Community College Initiative Program:

- U.S. citizens or individuals living in the United States.
- Individuals currently participating in academic, training, or research programs in the U.S.
- Individuals currently studying, residing, or working outside of the eligible countries.
- Individuals who have participated in an exchange visitor program sponsored or funded by the U.S. government for a period of more than six weeks and who have not fulfilled their two-year home residency requirement by the time of application.
- Individuals who have applied for U.S. permanent residency in the past three years;
- Local employees of the U.S. missions abroad who work for the U.S. Department of State and/or the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Employees are also ineligible for one year following the termination of employment.
- Immediate family members (i.e., spouses and children) of U.S. Department of State or USAID employees. Family members are also ineligible for one year following the termination of employment.
- Persons arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a crime (excluding minor traffic violations).

Application Review Process and Criteria

The CCI Program is conducted as a merit-based open competition. After the application deadline, all applications will be reviewed in country for eligibility and vetted by a panel of exchange program specialists. Competitive applicants will be interviewed in their home country by a nomination committee. All applicants will be notified of their status on a rolling basis from spring to summer 2012.

The nomination committee will use the following criteria to evaluate applications (not in order of importance):

- Demonstrated interest in the field of study applicant wishes to pursue.
- Cross-cultural interest.
- Leadership potential.
- Flexibility and suitability as an exchange student.
- Proficiency in written and spoken English.
- Commitment to returning to their home country after completion of the program;
- Preference will be given to those applicants who have no prior experience outside their home countries.
- Preference will be given to those applicants who represent underserved and underrepresented communities, including women.

General Application Instructions

- Submit completed original application with signature on the last page.
- Please answer ALL questions on the application in English (except where specified). Do NOT leave a space blank. If a question does not apply to you, enter N/A (not applicable).
- Include your full, legal name, family name (surname) first as spelled on your international passport (if available).
- Include complete contact information, including dialing codes for all addresses and city/country codes for all phone numbers.
- Hand written application must be neatly printed.
- Submit application by the deadline published by your country's Embassy or Fulbright Commission.

Financial Provisions of the Grant

- J-1 visa support.
- Round-trip travel from participant's home city to host institution in the United States.
- Tuition and mandatory college fees.
- Housing and meals.
- Small incidentals allowance.
- Limited allowance for books.
- Accident and sickness coverage.
- A wide variety of personal and professional development activities.

Fields of Study and Examples of Areas of Specialization

The following is a *sample* list of areas of specialization within each broad field of study.

Specializations vary by individual colleges.

Agriculture

Agriculture Business, Agronomy and Veterinary Science, Animal Science, Aquaculture (Fishery Science), Farm Management, Feed and Fertilizer Marketing, Floral Design, Greenhouse Production, Horticulture, Natural Resources Technician, Organic Agriculture, Sustainable Agriculture

Applied Engineering

Automotive Manufacturing Technology, Auto Tech, Basic and Advanced AutoCAD, Catia CAD, Construction Management, Electrical Tech, Electronic Tech, Engineering Assembly Technician, Engineering Tech, Engineering Technician, Environmental Studies, Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC), Manufacturing Engineering Tech, Manufacturing Maintenance Technician, Water Treatment, Welding Technology

Business Management and Administration

Accounting, Banking and Finance, Bookkeeping, Business Technology, Customer Service, Entrepreneurship, Human Resources, International Business, Leadership Development, Marketing, Marketing Management, Project Management, Office Administration, Sales, Small Business Management, Supply Chain Management

Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Development, Infant and Toddler Care Specialization, School-Age Specialization, Family Childcare Specialization, Paraprofessional Teacher Assistant

Information Technology

Cisco, Commercial Art Tech, Computer Animation, Computer Forensics, Computer Information System (CIS), Computer Literacy, Computer Support Specialist, Data Recovery, Database, Digital Media, E-Commerce, Help Desk, GIS, Multimedia, Mobile Application Development, Networking, Programming, Video Game Design, Web Analyst, Web Design

Media

Advertising, Computer Animation, Desktop Publishing, Digital Media, Digital Design, Film Making, Graphic Design, Journalism, Music Recording and Mixing, Public Relations, Social Media, TV, Video Game Design, Visual Communications

Tourism and Hospitality Management

Conference Management, Culinary Arts, Customer Service, Food & Beverage Management, Front Office Operations, Hotel Management, Meeting and Event Management, Hospitality Management, Restaurant Management, Travel and Tourism

Additional information about majors and courses of study in the United States is available through such resources as the Princeton Review: <http://www.princetonreview.com/majors.aspx>



COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE PROGRAM

STUDENT APPLICATION 2013-2014

Personal Information

Name of applicant

SURNAME

FIRST

MIDDLE

Home Address:

Street and number:

City:

State/province:

Postal code:

Country:

Home Phone:

Mobile Phone:

E-mail:

Place of birth (city or town and country, as listed in passport, if available):

City of birth:

Country:

Date of birth (month/day/year):

Month of birth:

Day of birth:

Year of birth:

Country of citizenship:

Do you have a passport?

☐ yes

☐ no

Gender:

Male ☐

Female ☐

Marital status:

☐ Single

☐ Married

Are you currently a student?

☐ yes

☐ no

If yes, name of college/institution:

What is the highest educational degree you have completed?

Have you participated in any U.S. government exchange program?

Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, program name and year:

Your proposed Field of Study to pursue during the Community College Initiative program (check one):

☐ Agriculture

☐ Applied Engineering

☐ Business Management and Administration

☐ Early Childhood Education

☐ Information Technology

☐ Media

☐ Tourism and Hospitality Management

Within your proposed Field of Study, please describe your specific area of interest and your related experience:

Knowledge of languages: Rate yourself *Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor*. Include all languages that you speak or have studied, including English. List your native language also.

Language	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Listening

Language proficiency If you have taken any standard test of English language proficiency (for example TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS) please identify the type of test taken, give the results, and provide a copy of the test results.

Test Taken:

Date Taken:

Results (*attach copy*):

Background Information

List Educational Institutions Attended. (Please attach a translated and certified copy of your transcripts for any institution from which you received a diploma or degree).

Name of Institution/Location	Major Field of Study	Dates Attended (Month, Year) From To		Actual Name of Degree or Diploma (Do not translate)	Date Received

Work Experience: List jobs held, begin with current or most recent employment. (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

Name and address of employer	Position held	Date From:	Date To:	Responsibilities

If you have traveled or lived in any country other than your own indicate places, dates and purpose.

(Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

Country	Dates	Purpose

Below, provide the names, addresses and telephone numbers of individuals to be notified in case of emergency.

Name of individual	Location & address of individual (List contact in your country <u>and</u> in the United States)	Indicate relation to individual (relative, friend, etc.)	Languages this person speaks

Essays

Essay #1: Please describe why you are a good candidate for the Community College Initiative program. How would this program fit with your past education and training? How would this program fit your future professional and personal goals?

Essay #2: What would you like to share about your country and its culture with the people you meet? Why would you be a good representative of your country? How will you share your culture with people who may not know it?

Essay #3: Please describe one situation from your school, work, or personal life when you faced a challenge or a problem. How did you resolve it?

Essay #4: What do you think will be most difficult about being away from your home for a year? What steps will you take to overcome these difficulties?

Essay #5: What part of U.S. culture are you eager to experience? Why?

Essay #6: If you participate in this program, how do you think your life will be different in 5 years?

COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE PROGRAM APPLICATION CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

CERTIFICATION: I certify that I completed this application myself, without aid or assistance, that the information given in this application is complete and accurate, and that I have carefully read and understand it.

I understand that program administrators reserve the right to verify all the information listed in the application. I understand that giving false or misleading information in the application will eliminate me from the competition or cause my dismissal from the Community College Initiative Program.

Also, I acknowledge that I am aware of the following program requirements:

- I must follow all program rules and regulations and observe all the laws of the United States during my stay there.
- At the end of the year program, I will return to my home country. I understand that I may not extend my stay in the United States.

Signature of applicant

Date (month/day/year)